

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EURE-00 /060 W

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P R 221544Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2669

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5444

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA (SA)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NO

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF ROLAND SHORAD SYSTEM PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 260240

MDA SENDS

1. THE EMBASSY IS CONCERNED BY THE INDICATION (REFTEL) THAT THE ROLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS HAVING DIFFICULTY BECAUSE OF COST INCREASES AND THAT TERMINATION IS A POSSIBILITY.

2. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE AWARE, THE NORWEGIAN MOD STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE U.S. VERSION OF THE ROLAND TO THE STARTING WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED IT AS PART OF THE NATO STANDARDIZATION EFFORT. F-16 PURCHASE WAS ALSO SUPPORTED IN SAME SPIRIT.

3. WE RECENTLY HAD A VISIT TO OSLO BY ROLAND PROJECT MANAGERS, WHO INDICATED TO NORWEGIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS THAT COST INCREASES WERE NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM. IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT THE

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IMPRESSION THEY LEFT WITH THE GON NAY NOT, IN LIGHT OF REFTEL,

BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN GON'S HELPFUL ATTITUDE TOWARD STANDARDIZATION THAT WE BE ABLE TO KEEP GON COMPLETELY AND FULLY INFORMED OF ANY ADVERSE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ROLAND MISSILE SYSTEM. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE NORWAY ON THIS OR FUTURE STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS DEPENDS ON SUCH AN APPROACH. CONTRARILY, TO ALLOW GON TO HEAR OF SUCH PROBLEMS ONLY THROUGH HEARSAY OR PRESS REPORTS CAN ONLY COMPLICATE USG'S POLICY GOALS IN THIS FIELD.

5. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BE PROVIDED ON A PRIORITY BASIS A CLEAR ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF THE ROLAND SYSTEM, WHICH ASSESSMENT WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE FRANKLY WITH THE GON.

BREMER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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